

Lesson
2**Commas in Sentences****Teaching**

Commas are used to separate parts of a sentence.

Use a comma before the conjunction that joins the two independent clauses of a compound sentence. Do not use a comma to separate parts of a compound predicate.

The capital of Canada is Ottawa, but Montreal is Canada's biggest city.

In a series of three or more items, use a comma after every item except the last one.

Some of Canada's provinces are Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia.

Use commas between two or more adjectives of equal rank that modify the same noun. The adjectives are of equal rank if you can substitute the word *and* for the comma.

Canada and the U.S. have a peaceful, cooperative relationship.

Use a comma after an introductory word or phrase.

Before the end of our trip, we took a group picture in front of Niagara Falls.

Use commas to set off one or more words that interrupt the flow of thought in a sentence.

Most of Canada's population, I might point out, lives close to the United States.

Use commas to set off nouns of direct address.

Jill, tell the border guard that all of us are American citizens.

Use commas to set off appositives that add extra information but are not needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear.

The biggest city, Montreal, is the largest French speaking city outside France.

Use a comma whenever the reader might otherwise be confused.

Before autumn, leaves start turning colors in the cool Canadian air.

Using Commas Correctly

Insert commas where necessary in the following sentences.

1. The Saint Lawrence Seaway a major waterway allows ocean-going vessels to travel between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean.
2. At the end of construction in 1959 the Seaway had seven locks and a depth of at least 27 feet.
3. Roland what can you tell me about the Saint Lawrence Seaway?
4. From Montreal to Lake Ontario the Saint Lawrence is about 183 miles long.
5. The Lachine section I believe has an 18-mile canal and two locks.
6. Three of the five sections are located entirely in Canada and the other two sections contain segments in northern New York.
7. The Seaway provides a deep stable waterway for commercial ships.
8. The cargo shipments are largely wheat corn barley soybeans and iron.
9. After ice forms the Seaway closes for the winter months.

Commas in Sentences

More Practice

A. Using Commas

Insert commas where necessary in the following sentences.

1. The U.S.-Canada boundary in fact is about 4,000 miles long.
2. It winds from a fishing village in Passamaquoddy Bay Maine to Vancouver Island.
3. Did you know LaTisha that Americans account for about 80% of Canada's tourists?
4. We waited in a long line to go through customs on our way to Canada but we had almost no wait at all when we came back home.
5. The customs officer was a serious stern woman.
6. Unlike the United States Canada is a federal parliamentary democracy.
7. After we entered Canada we changed our speedometer to kilometers.
8. Washington Montana North Dakota and Minnesota are U.S. states that share long borders with Canada.
9. When the border appears the cars traveling to Canada must go through customs.
10. People living near the Canadian border naturally must go through customs often.

B. Proofread for Commas

Insert commas where they are needed. Use the proofreading symbol [^].

Niagara Falls as you may know is on the Niagara River in western New York and southeast Ontario. It actually has two waterfalls. The Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side is 176 feet high and the American Falls on the U.S. side is 182 feet high. Carrying about nine times more water than the American Falls the Horseshoe Falls has a crescent shaped crest line. An island Goat Island in New York separates the two falls. A small beautiful section of the American Falls near Goat Island is called Bridal Veil Falls. Since its formation 12,000 years ago erosion has pushed Niagara Falls upstream about seven miles.

**Lesson
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Add commas there they are needed in the following paragraph. Use the proofreading symbol [↑].

Dora we will be visiting Glacier National Park in Montana. It's located as you know near the Canadian border. Glacier National Park borders the Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta Canada and together they form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Named for glaciers the park still has about fifty active ones. The biggest glacier in the park Blackfoot Glacier is located on the northern slope of Blackfoot Mountain. The glaciers provide water to more than 250 lakes. The beautiful peaceful Lake McDonald is surrounded by tall cliffs. In the summer around 1,000 species of wildflowers grow in the park. Wild animals such as bears elks mountain lions eagles and bobcats roam the lands.

B. Using Commas in Writing

Rewrite the sentences by following the directions in parentheses.

1. We packed before we left for Canada. (Include a series of items.)

2. Campobello Island is an island in Passamaquoddy Bay. (Include two adjectives of equal rank that modify the same noun.)

3. We drove straight to Niagara Falls. (Include an introductory phrase.)

4. We saw our favorite animal at the national park. (Include a nonessential appositive.)
